

SENATE BILL

No. 51

Introduced by Senator Polanco

May 17, 2001

An act to add Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 25448.2) to Chapter 5.4 of Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, relating to energy resources, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 51, as introduced, Polanco. School Energy Conservation Act.

(1) Existing law requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to implement and administer various energy conservation assistance programs, including the Energy Conservation Assistance Act of 1979 that provides grants and loans to local governments and public institutions to maximize energy use savings.

This bill would establish the School Energy Conservation Act, which would require the commission to establish and implement a grant program known as, the School Energy Grant Program, for the purposes of providing schools with grants to implement cost-effective energy conservation projects.

(2) The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Spiraling energy costs threaten school funding for classroom instruction.

(b) With an estimated 8,000 public schools statewide, energy conservation in public schools can help California become energy self sufficient.

(c) While school districts are in need of state support to offset the immediate costs, it is critical that those districts immediately implement efforts to conserve energy in order to realize ongoing savings on energy costs.

(d) It is in the state's interest to provide school districts with assistance to implement cost effective projects to help schools reduce their use of energy.

SEC. 2. Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 25448.2) is added to Chapter 5.4 of Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

Article 5.5. School Energy Conservation Act

25448.2. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the School Energy Conservation Act.

25448.3. (a) The commission shall establish and implement a grant program known as the School Energy Grant Program, for the purpose of providing public schools with grants to implement cost-effective energy conservation projects.

(b) A school district, as defined in Section 80 of the Education Code, shall be eligible for a grant awarded by the commission pursuant to this article if it meets all of the following requirements:

(1) Gives written notice to the commission of its intent to participate in the program and comply with any conditions imposed by the commission with respect to the program.

(2) The school district applying for a grant conducts an energy audit of district facilities within 12 months from the effective date of this article, in accordance with guidelines established by the commission. Energy audits that are completed within that 12-month timeframe shall be considered to have complied with this paragraph.

1 (3) The school district submits to the commission an
2 expenditure plan describing how grant funds will be expended,
3 and agrees to complete the most cost-effective projects resulting
4 in the greatest energy savings within 12 months from the date of
5 notification of its grant award from the commission.

6 (4) The school district that receives a grant pursuant to this
7 article submits a report of work completed, project costs, and
8 estimated energy savings to the commission.

9 25448.4. The commission shall determine the amount of
10 grants awarded pursuant to Section 25448.2, as follows:

11 (a) The total public school enrollment for the year immediately
12 preceding January 1, 2002, shall be divided by the total funds
13 appropriated by the commission for energy assistance grants.

14 (b) The number derived from subdivision (a) shall be
15 multiplied by the total enrollment of the school district for the year
16 immediately preceding January 1, 2002.

17 25448.5 The commission may reserve up to 5 percent of the
18 total funds available for grants under this article to provide
19 supplemental funding to school districts that experience special
20 circumstances due to extreme weather conditions, expansion, or
21 other criteria determined by the commission.

22 25448.6 The commission shall provide written notice to each
23 school district in the state of any grant funds that become available
24 pursuant to this article for energy conservation projects and
25 conditions.

26 SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
27 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety
28 within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go
29 into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

30 In order to alleviate the effects of the electric supply shortage
31 currently facing California, it is necessary that this act take effect
32 immediately.

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